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Testimony Before Public Health Committee Regarding:

**Proposed H.B. Bill No. 6699 – An act authorizing Bonds of the State of Connecticut for Expansion of Hospice
Southeastern Connecticut
February 26, 2007**

My name is John D. Lanza, CPA. I am the President of the Board of Directors of Hospice Southeastern CT, a resident of Southeastern Connecticut, and a partner with the firm of Kostin, Ruffkess and Company, LLC, located in New London. My Firm and I continue to be strong supporters of Hospice Southeastern Connecticut. We believe quality, end of life care is an essential part of our community's healthcare system. Furthermore, we support the development of the new administration and community bereavement center for Hospice Southeastern Connecticut and Proposed Bill No. 6699 authorizing the issuance of state bond funds for this project.

Our community expects the highest level of healthcare. Hospice Southeastern Connecticut has been providing superior end of life care to our community for over 21 years. Its services are offered regardless of one's ability to pay in the home and many times may be provided in the skilled nursing facilities. Through its bereavement support programs, Hospice Southeastern Connecticut has made a positive difference in the lives of those who have suffered a loss and were experiencing difficulties managing their grief. Hospice's physicians, nurses, social workers, bereavement counselors, aids, clergy and volunteers are highly skilled and trained to provide comfort during life's most delicate time. We believe that a new facility for Hospice Southeastern Connecticut will allow the Agency to expand these services and broaden its reach within our community.

I thank you for your time and allowing me to express my perspective of Hospice Southeastern Connecticut and the importance of Proposed H. B. Bill No. 6699

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